

FINDING AID

BIRD PROGRAM RECORDS

1899-2007(bulk dates: 1986-2007)

Prepared by Mariah Robertson 6/10/2010

Yellowstone National Park Archives P O Box 168 Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190-0168

Catalog Number: YELL 126004

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HISTORY

The Yellowstone National Park Bird Program was officially started in 1989 with the hiring of park ornithologist, Terry McEneaney. From the historic documents it appears that prior to this, the Chief Ranger's Office (CRO) and the Interpretive Division staff managed information and activities regarding birds as they related to fishing, observations, and survey requests from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Also, some reports and correspondence originate from the USFWS.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

BIRD PROGRAM RECORDS 1899-2007 (bulk dates: 1986-2007)

CATALOG NUMBER YELL 126004

VOLUME 13.00 LF

DESCRIPTION

The scope of materials in this accession includes correspondence, reports, observation forms, prints, slides, and annotated published maps. These documents are a result of several activities and programs designed to document bird species in the park and to increase or maintain their populations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). Specific areas include Yellowstone National Park, Harriman State Park, Red Rock Lake National Wildlife Refuge (RRLNWR), and Paradise Valley private ranch land.

The following paragraphs summarize the bulk of the subject matter.

Historical references to observations include the Christmas Bird Count and correspondence with biologists, rangers, and other governmental departments. In the 1980's, Joe Zarki started to compile both employee and visitor observations into a quarterly reports. In 1991, a more formal program was being established including submitting rare bird observations to the Audubon Society and generating annual reports with observations and updates on projects. Even without a structured program in place, observations were being recorded earlier. Some correspondence in the collection relates to park bird observations and date to the late 19th century.

Bird surveys make up a large portion of the collection. Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) organized by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), data collected in the park by National Park Service (NPS), and analyzed data are maintained on the USGS website for BBS routes. Survey data represented in the documents also include parkwide

and regional areas within the park and specific species.

A large series of documents contained in the collection relate directly to the Rocky Mountain population of Trumpeter Swans in the GYE, the maintenance of that population, and the elimination of mute swans. Also reflected is more intensive research and creation of projects relating to specific species along with standards for protecting birdlife in the park from visitor activities including fishing with lead weights and disturbance.

The records consist of documentation both from the office of ornithology and activities from private organizations and local, state, and federal government offices that relate to bird management in the GYE. As a result, the records show the historic development of and need for the Yellowstone Bird Program and its relationships with bird societies and all levels of resource managers, from local to international.

ORGANIZATION

This record group contains the records for the ornithology program as a division currently administered by the Yellowstone Center for Resources. The documents are arranged into nine series at this date and include: 1. Administrative files including correspondence, nature notes, and observation form development, 2. Observations including Christmas Bird Count, formal and informal observations arranged by year with quarterly and annual bird reports, 3. Bird surveys including breeding bird and bird surveys for the park, 4-8. Projects by Bird including: Harlequin Ducks, Raptors, Trumpeter Swans, Whooping Cranes, and Other Birds, and 9. Fire and Avian Ecology. This organization is flexible with anticipated future growth. Duplicates, blank forms, office of non record, and documents not relating to ornithology in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem were culled and either given to the Yellowstone Research Library, added to other records groups or disposed.

PROVENANCE

The first accession of Record Group 13, YELL-2452, were generated as a result of programs and activities performed by the ornithology office and were brought to the Yellowstone Archives by Terry McEneaney, former park ornithologist, upon his retirement in 2007.

RESTRICTIONS

YES

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS Bird bands and feathers were separated into the museum collection. Skins and mounts are part of this accession and are cataloged in the natural history component of the museum collection. Yellowstone National Park Museum Collections

HIERARCHY

- I. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS, 1920-2007 (bulk dates: 1985-2007)
- II. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA, 1939-2007 (bulk dates: 1984-2007)
- III. BIRD SURVEYS, 1962-1973, 1997-2005 (bulk dates: 1997)
- IV. HARLEQUIN DUCKS, 1968-2003
- V. RAPTORS, 1935-2000 (bulk dates: 1968-2000)
- VI. TRUMPETER SWANS, 1889-2007 (bulk dates: 1987-2003)
- VII. WHOOPING CRANES, 1914-2004 (bulk dates: 1984-2004)
- VIII. OTHER BIRDS, 1927-2007 (bulk dates: 1975-2003)
- IX. FIRE AND AVIAN ECOLOGY, 1988-1991 (bulk dates: 1989)

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS, 1920-2007 (bulk dates: 1985-2007)

Arranged chronologically within each file unit, unless otherwise noted in the record as retaining original order. File units are grouped by subject: correspondence, Nature Notes, and specific program files.

The administrative records reflect the function of the ornithology program. They include correspondence (1985-2007), Yellowstone Nature Notes compilation of bird articles only, bird observation checklist development (1946-1988, 1990-2007), and programs including: Partners in Flight, Important Bird Areas, and Yellowstone Bird Observation Committee. Also included are historical records from the CRO that track decisions made about bird issues in the GYE and with other agencies and land managers (1931-1953) and assessment and impact mitigation records.

II. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA, 1939-2007 (bulk dates: 1984-2007)

Arrangement is chronological unless otherwise noted in file unit record. Bird observations are filed chronologically by the observation date, if available. If not available, then the next best date is used. Compiled monthly lists of observations are filed at the beginning of that month.

This series contains Christmas Bird Count forms and summaries, completed observation forms, older observation recording systems, and compiled observations tallied from research performed in the Yellowstone Archives and Research Library.

III. BIRD SURVEYS, 1962-1973, 1997-2005 (bulk dates: 1997)

The series Bird Surveys contains both BBS and general bird surveys.

The BBS is a large-scale survey of North American birds organized by the USGS. It is a roadside survey, primarily covering the continental United States and southern Canada, although survey routes have recently been initiated in Alaska and northern Mexico. The BBS was started in 1966, and the over 3,500 routes are surveyed in June by experienced birders. Data for the surveys are maintained at the following website: http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html 6/2010

General bird surveys were organized by the ornithology program and are more specific to a particular area of the park and projects related to the program. The included survey areas are

parkwide, northern range, and Glacial Boulder trailhead. Species related survey projects include dipper, waterfowl, and eagles.

The BBS file units are arranged in chronological order and grouped together. The bird program survey file units are grouped by areas, species, and field maps. The organization of the documents within the files is original.

Documents include annotated maps and forms of parkwide bird surveys, northern range bird surveys, and historical waterfowl and eagle surveys. Both copies and original documents are included. Some species specific surveys are filed under the related series and are not filed in the general survey series.

IV. HARLEQUIN DUCKS, 1968-2003

The file units are arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

This series contains materials produced by the ornithology program and other offices with collateral duties regarding harlequin duck research and projects concerning visitors at LeHardy Rapids, population distribution, and conservation.

V. RAPTORS, 1935-2000 (bulk dates: 1968-2000)

This series is arranged by species and then chronologically.

This series contains materials produced by the ornithology program and other offices with ornithology duties regarding raptor research and projects including correspondence, maps, data, and observation forms of osprey, eagles, falcons, and other raptors.

VI. TRUMPETER SWANS, 1889-2007 (bulk dates: 1987-2003)

Information on Yellowstone's resident swan and wintering swan population dates back to 1931 and 1971, respectively. These tri-state annual surveys are conducted in September and February as part of an interagency effort coordinated by the USFWS. Paradise Valley was added to the autumn and midwinter survey in 1989 and 1999, while Hebgen Lake was added to the autumn and midwinter count in 2005 and 2000. Data for previous autumn counts on Hebgen Lake could not be located. In addition, YNP has conducted biweekly winter ground-based surveys for portions of the Yellowstone and Madison Rivers since 1987. Swans are also monitored during the nesting season in order to determine the number of non-breeders, territory occupancy, nest success (nests hatching young) as opposed to fledging success (cygnets surviving until September) which is accomplished via the autumn surveys (from 2009 Yellowstone Bird Report).

File units are arranged by subject and then chronologically in ascending order.

This series contains reports, observation forms, charts, maps, and correspondence, supporting the activities of Trumpeter Swan management in Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding ecosystem, including Red Rocks Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and Harriman State Park.

VII. WHOOPING CRANES, 1914-2004 (bulk dates: 1984-2004)

File units within this series are arranged by subject and then chronologically within each folder.

This series contains correspondence, reports, and notes regarding the recovery efforts of state and federal governments to re-establish a viable population of Whooping Cranes in the Greater Yellowstone Area and North America.

VIII. OTHER BIRDS, 1927-2007 (bulk dates: 1975-2003)

This series is arranged alphabetically by common bird name.

This series contains correspondence, reports, summaries, charts, drawings, informational pamphlets, and incident records relating to white pelicans, waterfowl, ptarmigan, swallows, doves, Siberian accentors, ravens, and sandhill cranes.

IX. FIRE AND AVIAN ECOLOGY, 1988-1991 (bulk dates: 1989)

This series is arranged by record type: surveys, research and reports, and correspondence. Each file unit's organization is original.

This series contains survey forms, correspondence, notes, and reports relating to the impact of the 1988 fires.

CONTAINER LIST

Series Nbr Series Title

01 ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

File Unit Title

	The emit Time
Box 1:	
001	Correspondence 1985-1994
002	Correspondence 1995-1997
003	Correspondence 1998-1999
004	Correspondence 2000-2002
005	Correspondence 2003-2004
006	Correspondence 2005-2007
Box 2:	
007	Yellowstone Nature Notes: Vols I-IV
008	Yellowstone Nature Notes: Vols V-VII
009	Yellowstone Nature Notes: Vols VII-XII
010	Yellowstone Nature Notes: Vols XIII-XVII
011	Yellowstone Nature Notes: Vols XVIII-XXII
012	Yellowstone Nature Notes: Vols XXIII-XXVI
013	Yellowstone Nature Notes: Vols XXVII-XXXII
014	Yellowstone Nature Notes: General Indices
Box 3:	
015	Conservation of Neotropical Migrants: Partners in Flight
016	Important Bird Areas Program
017	Bird Checklist Development 1946-1988
018	Bird Checklist Development 1990-2007
019	Environmental Assessment and Impact Mitigation
020	Biological Assessment Reports
021	Chief Ranger's Office Bird Management Records 1931-1953
022	Yellowstone Bird Observation Committee

Series Nbr Series Title

02 OBSERVATIONS AND DATA Restricted Folder: 26

File Unit Title

Box 1:	
001	Christmas Bird Count Summaries 1921-2001
002	Christmas Bird Count Support Documents
003	Christmas Bird Count Cards [1975-1981]
004	Christmas Bird Count 1975-1980
005	Christmas Bird Count 1981-1985
006	Christmas Bird Count 1986-1990
007	Christmas Bird Count 1991-1996
008	Christmas Bird Count 1997-2001
009	Christmas Bird Count 2002-2008
Box 2:	
010	Bird Observation Forms 1967-1980
011	Yellowstone Bird Sightings/ Observations Summary Reports/ Yellowstone Bird
	Reports 1984-1990
012	Bird Observation Forms 1981-1987
013	Bird Observation Forms 1988
014	Bird Observation Forms January-August 1989
015	Bird Observation Forms September-December 1989
016	Bird Observation Forms January-June 1990

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Box 3:	
017	Bird Observation Forms July-October 1990
018	Bird Observation Forms November 1990-May 1991
019	Bird Observation Forms & Reports June-November 1991
020	Bird Observation Forms & Reports December 1991-November 1992
021	Bird Observation Forms & Reports December 1992-November 1993
022	Bird Observation Forms & Reports December 1993-November 1994
023	Bird Observation Forms & Reports December 1994-November 1995
024	Bird Observation Forms & Reports December 1995-December 1996
Box 4:	
025	Bird Observation Forms & Report 1997
026	Bird Observation Forms & Report 1998-Restricted
027	Bird Observation Forms & Report 1999
028	Bird Observation Forms & Report 2000
029	Bird Observation Forms & Report 2001
Box 5:	
030	Bird Observation Forms & Report 2002
031	Bird Observation Forms Jan-Aug & Report 2003
032	Bird Observation Forms Sept-Dec 2003
033	Bird Observation Forms & Report 2004
034	Bird Observation Forms & Report 2005
035	Bird Observation Forms & Report 2006
036	Bird Observation Forms 2007
Box 6:	
037	Observation Forms: Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers
038	Observation Forms: Shorebirds, Gulls
039	Observation Forms: Pigeons, Cuckoos, Owls
040	Observation Forms: Gallinaceous Birds, Cranes
041	Observation Forms: Tricolored Blackbird, Bendire's Thrasher, Misc.
042 043	Observation Forms: Loons, Grebes, Pelican, Ciconiiformes
044	Observation Forms: Diurnal Raptors Observation Forms: Waterfowl
045	Observation Forms: Waterlowi Observation Forms: Passerines: Tyrant Flycatchers to Dippers
046	Observation Forms: Passerines: Old World Warblers to Vireos
047	Observation Forms: Passerines: Wood Warblers to World Sparrows
048	Bird Observations Compiled by Daryl Tessen
049	Historical Bird Observations Compiled from Yellowstone Archives
050	Bird Observations Outside of Yellowstone National Park
030	Die Observations Outside of Tenowstone Patrional Lark
Series Nbr	Series Title
03	BIRD SURVEYS Restricted Folder: 18
0.5	DIAD SCRIPTS HOW TO WORK 20
	File Unit Title
Box 1:	
001	Breeding Bird Survey Summaries 1982-3, 1985-90
002	Breeding Bird Surveys 1982-1991
003	Breeding Bird Surveys 1992-1994
004	Breeding Bird Surveys 1995-1996
005	Breeding Bird Surveys 1997
006	Breeding Bird Surveys 1998
007	Breeding Bird Surveys 1999-2000
Roy 2.	

Breeding Bird Surveys 2001-2003 Breeding Bird Surveys 2004-2007 010 North Entrance Breeding Bird Survey Sites 2000

Box 2:

008 009

011	Mammoth Breeding Bird Survey Sites 2000
012	Yellowstone Breeding Bird Survey Sites 2000
Box 3:	č ,
013	Parkwide Bird Surveys
014	Northern Range Bird Surveys
015	Glacial Boulder Trailhead Bird Surveys
016	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Waterfowl and Eagle Censuses 1962-1973
017	Dipper Survey
018	Topographic Field Maps-Restricted
Series Nbr	Series Title
04	HARLEQUIN DUCKS
	File Unit Title
Box 1:	
001	Harlequin Duck Life Strategy
002	Assessment of Visitor Impacts on Harlequin Ducks at LeHardy Rapids
003	Harlequin Duck Distribution
004	Harlequin Duck Conservation
Series Nbr	Series Title
05	
03	RAPTORS Restricted Folders: 1-3, 5, 7-9
	File Unit Title
Box 1:	
001	Osprey Productivity and Nesting Data 1969-1982-Restricted
002	Osprey Productivity and Nesting Data 1983-1985-Restricted
003	Osprey Productivity and Nesting Data 1986-2006-Restricted
004	Osprey Management
005	Osprey and Bald Eagle Nest Sites-Restricted
Box 2:	
006	Bald Eagle Management Correspondence
007	Bald Eagle Productivity and Nesting Data 1960-1986-Restricted
008	Bald Eagle Productivity and Nesting Data 1987-2001-Restricted
009	Mid-Winter Eagle Surveys 1972-1990-Restricted
010	Mid-Winter Eagle Surveys 1991-2005
Box 3:	The White Eagle Surveys 1991 2003
011	Raptor Migration Volunteers
012	Raptor Migration Inventory
013	Raptor Migration Data
014	Raptor Migration Mt. Washburn Logbook
014	
013	Raptor Observations and Distribution Correspondence
	Raptor Observations and Distribution Correspondence
017	Peregrine Falcon Data and Observations
018	Peregrine Falcon Project Reports
019	Peregrine Falcon Correspondence
Series Nbr	Series Title
06	TRUMPETER SWANS Restricted Folder: 51
	File Unit Title
Box 1:	
001	Observations and List of Sources
002	Historical Observations 1899-1950

003	Historical Observations 1951-1957
004	Observations, Correspondence, and Notes 1966-1980
005	Observations, Correspondence, and Notes 1981-1984
006	Observations, Correspondence, and Notes 1985-1987
007	Observations, Correspondence, and Notes 1986-2005
Box 2:	
008	Mortality Cases and Report
009	Necropsies and Laboratory Studies
010	Lead Free Fishing
011	USFWS Swan Hunt
012	"Save the Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan" Video Project
013	"Save the Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan" Video Project Investigation
014	Floating Nest Platforms
015	Area Closures
Box 3:	
016	Recovery Fund and Call of the Wild
017	TSIP [Trumpeter Swan Implementation Plan] Drafts
018	TSIP Documents 2001
019	TSIP Documents 2002
020	Population Dynamics for Yellowstone Lake-Yellowstone River and Madison-Firehole
	Rivers
021	Translocation and Population Data [for the Tri-State Area]
022	Interagency Agreement with NPS and USGS
023	Greater Yellowstone Conservation Data Center Database
024	Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Data
Box 4:	
025	Compiled Annual Summaries
026	Monthly Flight Surveys & Reports
027	GYTSWG [Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Working Group] Reports,
	Correspondence & Notes 1986, 1990-1995
028	GYTSWG Reports, Correspondence & Notes 1997
029	GYTSWG Reports, Correspondence & Notes 1998
030	GYTSWG Reports, Correspondence & Notes 1999
031	GYTSWG Reports, Correspondence & Notes 2000-2005
Box 5:	FWG M' 1 W' . G . D 1071 1000
032	FWS Mid-Winter Survey Reports 1971-1990
033	FWS Mid-Winter Survey Reports 1991-1998
034	FWS Mid-Winter Survey Reports 1999-2007
035	FWS Fall Survey Data 1936-1968 & Reports 1983-1990
036	FWS Fall Survey Reports 1991-1998
037 038	FWS Fall Survey Reports 1999-2007
	Management & Population Update Reports USFWS
Box 6: 039	Appual Canaucas 1040 1050
040	Annual Censuses 1940-1959
041	Annual Censuses 1960-1968 Swan Count Mans 1948, 1949, 1955, 1958
042	Swan Count Maps 1948, 1949, 1955, 1958 Swan Count Maps 1956, 1950, 1964, 1965
043	Swan Count Maps 1956, 1959, 1964, 1965 Swan Count Maps 1959-1967
044	Annual Censuses 1971-2002
Box 7:	Allitual Celisuses 1971-2002
045	Panga Evnancian Project
045	Range Expansion Project Winter Surveys Notes & Posults
047	Winter Surveys Notes & Results Winter Surveys with Collar Sightings
048	Winter Surveys & Observations 1984-1993
049	Winter Surveys & Observations 1984-1993 Winter Surveys & Observations 1994-2002
UTI	THILLI DUI VOYO & OUSCI VALIOIIS 1777+-2002

050 051 052	Winter Canada Goose/Swan Survey Results Nest Histories & Locations-Restricted Abundance & Productivity Reports
Series Nbr	Series Title WHOOPING CRANES
	File Unit Title
Box 1:	
001	Whooping Crane Observations
002	Whooping Crane Correspondence 1984-1999
003	Whooping Crane Correspondence 2000-2004
004	Whooping Crane Recovery
005	Whooping Crane Recovery Reports
Series Nbr	Series Title
08	OTHER BIRDS
	File Unit Title
Box 1:	
001	White Pelicans & Molly Islands [Historic Documents, 1931-1944]
002	White Pelicans
003	Molly Islands and Colonial Nesters
004	Waterfowl
005	White-tailed Ptarmigan
006	Swallows
007	Eurasian Collared Doves
008	Siberian Accentors
009	Ravens
010	Sandhill Cranes
Series Nbr	Series Title
09	FIRE AND AVIAN ECOLOGY
	File Unit Title
Box 1:	
001	Birds in Burns Surveys
002	D . 1000 F

Post 1988 Fire Season Notes and Reports

1988 Fires and Birds Correspondence

 $\begin{array}{c} 002 \\ 003 \end{array}$